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c) crimping at least a portion of the stent onto the catheter by reducing the size of the aperture, the crimped portion of the stent having a substantially uniform cross-section.

64. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein the stent is disposed about a medical balloon, the medical balloon disposed about a catheter.

65. (New) The method of claim 63 further comprising the step of cooling the temperature of the dies below ambient temperature.

66. (New) The method of claim 65 wherein the stent is made of nitinol.

67. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein the dies are wedge-shaped.

68. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein at least 8 dies are provided.

69. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein at least 16 dies are provided.

70. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein the dies are moved cooperatively inward during the moving step.

71. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein the entirety of the stent is disposed in the aperture during the placing step.

Please cancel claims 27-41, 44, and 45 without prejudice or disclaimer.

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated December 26, 2002 and the Examiner Interview of June 5, 2003. Prior to the Interview, Applicant sent three proposed claims A, B, and C to discuss with the Examiner. In the interview, U.S. Patent 5,893,852 to Morales, U.S. Patent 3,695,087 to Tuberman, and Fig. 1 of the application labeled "prior art" were also discussed. The interview summary states that the precise term "iris crimper" of proposed claim A is not present in the original disclosure and that the limitation of proposed claim B "arranged to form an iris" means the dies form a circular shape. Applicant clarifies these statements by noting that "arranged to form an iris" of proposed claim B was agreed upon to include dies which form a substantially circular shape such as shown in Figs. 2a and 2b. Applicant disagrees that an iris crimper was not originally disclosed. Applicant points to Figs. 2a-2b, 3c, 4a-5a for disclosure of an iris crimper.

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The Interview Summary further states that fig. 5A of Morales appears to show dies which form an iris because of the outline at numeral (70), that fig. 3 of Tuberman shows a crimper which forms an iris shape, and that Fig. 1 of the present application appears to show that the dies form an iris shape when the dies are contacting the stent. Applicant pointed out that Morales only shows four dies/teeth which move straight in and that there is spacing between these dies such that they are not arranged to form an iris. Additionally, it was pointed out by the Applicant that Tuberman is not applicable. Tuberman discloses an apparatus for forming a point on a tube, not for crimping a stent. Applicant also pointed out that Fig. 1 of the application is not arranged to form an iris.

Applicant believes that the new claims address the considerations of the Examiner and are allowable.

Claims 27-41, 44, and 45 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The rejections in regard to the claims are now moot. New claims 46-71 have been added. No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the present application, with pending claims 46-71, is in condition for allowance. Early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 23, 2003

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